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*The Cause of the Rebellion : or, What Killed Mr. Lincoln.*

# A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN THE

*First Congregational Church in Niagara City,*

IN HONOR OF

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN

APRIL 20th, 1865.

BY

REV. B. F. BRADFORD.

Published by Request.

*BUFFALO:*
A. M. CLAPP & CO'S STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
OFFICE OF THE MORNING EXPRESS.
1865.

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# Correspondence.

Suspension Bridge, April 20th, 1865.

*To the Rev. B. F. Bradford, Pastor of the Cong. Church:*

We, the subscribers to the following petition, having listened with pleasure to the discourse delivered by you, on the occasion of the funeral of the lamented Chief Magistrate of our nation, and deeming it worthy of a careful second perusal, respectfully request that you furnish us with a copy of the same, that we may have it printed in pamphlet.

None of the subscribers, as you will see, are members of your Church, but all are your well-wishers.

Respectfully Yours, &c.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, CITY OF WASHINGTON.

GEO. E. BROCK,
GEO. S. HAYNES,
WM. M. SHERWOOD,
JAS. SOMIT,
FRANK ROOT,
JAS. M. CONNEL,
WM. D. BATES,
WM. CARR.

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*Messrs. Brock, Haynes, and others:*

Gentlemen:—My Discourse delivered in honor of our beloved and martyred chieftain, was written in great haste, and without the remotest idea of its ever again beholding the light. It was designed to meet the object of that occasion, and also that of the following day as we merged them. It has many defects, but contains what I believe to be substantially the truth. If you think it will subserve the cause of Christian patriotism, I shall cheerfully furnish you a copy, having the utmost confidence in your judgment and your consistent and enlightened patriotism.

Respectfully,

B. F. BRADFORD.

Niagara City, April 26, 1865.

# What Killed Mr. Lincoln.

"*Know ye not that there is a Prince and a great man fallen this day?*" 2 Samuel iii. 38.

These words fell from the lips of David. A brave man, by whose valor, wisdom and sagacity, Israel had often been rescued from the clutch of malicious foes, [illegible] had been striken down by the hand of the assassin.

The King is overwhelmed with grief. He calls upon the nobles and the masses of the people to cloth themselves in the habiliments of mourning. The reason rendered for this National demonstration of sorrow is, that a prince and a great man had fallen in Israel.

These words of David, together with the deep sorrow that overwhelmed the masses of the Hebrew people, well represent the cause and propriety of the irrepressible grief of this great nation, weeping over the untimely death of its beloved President. Almost the entire loyal citizenship of the nation had begun to feel that Providence had raised him up to conduct us through this terrible ordeal. His frank, transparent honesty, his unbending integrity, his intuitive sagacity to solve intricate national problems, together with his unassumed massive dignity, his gentleness of spirit and great kindness of heart, had compelled confidence, and gave all a sense of assurance, that our national interests were safe in his hands; while these eminent personal qualities rendered him a noble representative of a great Republic, of a free government, and of a mighty and progressive people.

But alas! alas! how is the mighty fallen, and the loved, and the venerated, laid low in death. From the height of gladness under the inspiration of joyful tidings, the nation has been plunged into the deepest grief. When we were looking for still higher joy, behold sorrow; for the harbinger of peace, behold a cry; for a return of tranquillity, behold murder the most foul and most horrible. When we thought we saw the bright bow of promise spanning the dark horizon that had enveloped us for the last four years, then, lo, the mid-night pall gathers, so that instead of joyful thanks-giving, we are to wrap ourselves in the sable habiliments of lamentation and mourning. The event is unprecedented in our history as a nation. How humiliating that the President of these United States—one of the most enlightened nations, should be shot down as though he were the usurper of a throne; also, that the sick-chamber of the Secretary of State should be invaded, and the murderous dagger thrice thrust into his enfeebled body by the hand of the stealthy assassin, as though he were the accomplice of a tyrant and a usurper. No wonder that the whole nation is electrified with horror from city to hamlet, and that strong men bow in tears. From our stand point as a people, and our degree of progress and law-abiding habits, the crime stands forth upon the historic page without a parallel.

Yes, fellow-citizens, our loved President is gone; his last work is accomplished, and long ere this, near a half million of brave martyrs of liberty, have hailed in the spirit-land their Chief, amid peaceful scenes, beyond the tramp of armies, the shock of battle, or the murderous assassin's power.

But why, let me ask, has Abraham Lincoln been maliciously striken down in the midst of his years and his usefulness, and when to human view, the best interests of his country demanded his labors, counsels and example?

I answer, he had in the providence of God, become the representative of the great American idea—as God meant it, as the Fathers understood it. The ball, therefore, that sundered the subtle thread that bound soul and body together, was not expressive simply of *personal* revenge, but was expressive

of a chronic hate of those grand principles which found an incarnation in his noble character and administration.

Our land has been rocked with the thunders of war, and deluged with fraternal blood for the last four years. This war was waged by the South; it was commenced by maliciously shooting down the American flag that was peacefully floating over Fort Sumter.

But what was the object of the South in opening this murderous tragedy? Had the national government wronged them, or oppressed them, or allowed them to be robbed of their rights? Let the great Georgia statesman, the Webster of the South, answer this question, before the poisoned chalice of secession had been pressed to his lips. He says: "This step once taken can never be recalled; and all the baleful and withering consequences that must follow, will rest on the convention for all coming time. When we and our posterity shall see our lovely South desolated by the demon of war, which this act of yours will inevitably call forth, when our green fields of waving harvests shall be trodden down by the murderous fiery car of war sweeping over our land, our temples of justice laid in ashes, and all the horrors and desolations of war are upon us, who but this convention will be held responsible for it; and who but he that shall cast his vote for this unwise measure, shall be held accountable for this suicidal act, by the present generation, and cursed and exerated by prosperity for all coming time. Pause, I entreat you, and consider a moment, what reason can you give that will even satisfy yourselves in your calmer moments, or to your fellow-sufferers in the calamity that it will bring upon us, or what reason can you give the nation to justify it? What one overt act can you name on which to rest a plea for justification? What right has the North assailed? What interest of the South has been invaded? What justice has been denied? What claim founded in justice and right has been withheld? Can either of you name one governmental act of wrong deliberately and purposely done by the government at Washington of which the South has a right to complain? *I challenge the answer.* On the other hand, let me show *facts* of

which I wish you to judge, which are clear and undeniable, and which now stand as authentic records in the history of our country. When we of the South demanded the importation of Africans for the cultivation of our lands, did they not yield the right for twenty years? When we asked a three-fifths representation in Congress for our slaves, was it not granted? When we asked for the return of fugitive slaves, was not a provision incorporated in the constitution, and again ratified and strengthened in the fugitive slave law of 1850? Do you say that in many instances this compact has been violated? As *individual* and *local communities* they have done so, but not by the sanction of government, for that has always been true to Southern interests. When we asked that more territory should be added, that we might spread the institution of slavery, they yielded to our demand in giving us Louisiana, Florida and Texas, out of which four states have been carved, and out of which four more may be carved in due time, if you do not by this impolitic act, destroy this last hope, and by it loose all and have your last slave wrenched from you by a stern military rule, and by a vindictive degree of universal emancipation, which may be reasonably expected to follow.

Gentlemen, what have we to gain by this proposed change of our relations to the general government? We have always had control of it, and can yet, if we remain as we have been. A majority of the Presidents have been choosen from the South, as well as the *control* and *management* of those choosen from the North. We have had sixty years of Southern Presidents to their twenty-four. Of Judges of the Supreme Court, we have had eighteen from the South, and but eleven from the North; although nearly four-fifths of the judicial business has arisen from the free States. This we have required as a guard against any interpretation of the constitution unfavorable to us. In choosing Presidents (pro tem) of the Senate, we have had twenty-four to their eleven. We have had twenty-three Speakers of the House to the North twelve, while the majority of the Representatives have always been from the North, because of their greater population; yet we have so managed as generally to secure the Speaker, because he, to a great ex-

tent, shapes and controls the legislation of the country. Nor have we had less control in every other department of the general government. We have had fourteen Attorney Generals while the North has had five. We have had eighty-six foreign ministers while the North has had but fifty-four; and three-fourths of the business which demand diplomatic agents are clearly from the free States, and yet, we have had the principal Embassies, so as to secure the world's market for our cotton, tobacco and sugar on the best possible terms. We also have had a vast majority of the higher offices both in the army and navy, while a large proportion of the soldiers and sailors were from the North. Equally so has it been with clerks, auditors and comptrollers filling the executive department for the last fifty years; of the three thousand thus employed, more than two-thirds have been from the South, while we have but one-third of the white population. Look at another item, that of the revenue, and be assured it is of vital interest as a means of supporting the government. Official documents show that more than three-fourths of all the revenue by which the government has been sustained and the officers paid, has been raised from the North. Pause now while you can and consider these important items.

But leaving out of view the countless millions of dollars you must spend in a war with the North, and the tens of thousands of your sons and brothers slain and offered up as sacrifices upon the altar of your ambition—and for what? Is it to overthrow the government established by our common ancestry, cemented by their sweat and blood and founded on the broad principles of right, justice and humanity? It has ever been regarded by the greatest statesmen and noblest patriots, both in this and other lands, as the freest government, the most equal in rights, the most just in its decisions, the most lenient in its measures, and the most inspiring in its principles to elevate the race of any that the sun of heaven has ever shown upon.

Now for you to attempt to overthrow such a government as this, under which we have lived for more than three-fourths of a century, and under which we have gained our wealth and

standing as a nation, and our domestic safety while the elements of peril were around us, with peace and tranquillity accompanied with unbounded prosperity and rights unassailed—is the height of madness, folly and wickedness, to which I can neither lend my sanction nor my vote."

The question, therefore, in view of the foregoing extract, returns with accumulated force, what was the object of the South in waging this fratricidal, bloody conflict. Let it be answered by the pens and in the language of leading Southern men.

Said the Rev. Dr. Smylie, of South Carolina, "there can never be peace in the United States till that *damnable Red-Republican* lie, the Declaration of Independence, is blotted from our statute books."

Said another: the fathers, in founding the American government, based it upon the civil equality of all men, claiming that in *creation* all men are endowed by their creator with the inalienable rights of *life*, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But *our new* government is exactly the *opposite*. Its corner-stone rests upon the great truth that slavery is the normal condition of the negro. Our *new* government is the first in the history of the world founded on this great *moral* truth. In the conflict thus far the development of this truth has been slow, but success has been on our side. I cannot doubt its ultimate success and full recognition throughout the civilized world. This was the stone which was *rejected* by the *first builders*, but has become the chief of the corner in our new edifice.

Fellow citizens, the slavery of the African was but the entering wedge toward the ultimate purpose of the leaders in this rebellion.

Said the Richmond *Whig*—"The experiment of universal liberty has failed. The evils of a free society are insufferable. It is everywhere demoralizing and insurrectionary. Policy and humanity forbid its extension to coming generations. Free society must finally give place to slave society, a social state as old as the world and as universal as man." But what do the South mean by a slave society? Let Howell Cobb answer. There is, perhaps, no solution of the great problem

of reconciling the interest of labor and capital, so as to protect each from encroachment upon the other, so simple as slavery. By making the *laborer himself capital*, the conflict ceases and the interests become identical.

Says Governor Hammond, of South Carolina—"All forms of civilized and well ordered society contain two essential elements, the laboring and the ruling classes. We find our servile class in the negro, he is our property. You of the North find your servile class in the laboring whites; these sustain the same relations to social and civil society as do our negroes; they are the mudsills. But while we *own our* laborers, at the North, they are your *equals*, your *constituents*, your *masters* on *whom* you are *dependent* for *office* and *position*.

Said the Richmond *Examiner*,—"*Free* society? we sicken at the name. What is it but a conglomeration of greasy mechanics, filthy operatives, small-fisted farmers and moonstruck theorists. All the Northern states are devoid of society for a well bred gentleman.

The prevailing class one meets with is that of mechanics struggling to be geenteel, of small farmers who do their own drudgery, but who are hardly fit associates for a gentleman's body servant. This is your free society! We have got to hating everything with the prefix free, up and down through the whole catalogue. *Free* farms, free labor, free society, free children, free schools, all of which belong to the damnable brood of *isms*. But the worst of all these abominations, is the modern system of *free* schools. These have been the prolific cause of the treasons and infidelities that have turned the cities of the North in Sodams and Gomorrahs, and her land into nestling places of howling bedlamities. We hate that system of schools because it is *free*."

Here, then, we have drawn out by Southern pens, boldly and distinctly, the *ultimate* object of the leaders of this murderous rebellion. It is a crusade against humanity, Christian liberty and Christian civilization. The determined purpose from the beginning has been to blot out the immortal Declaration of American Independence, and to found a government

on a barbarous despotism, and to introduce that heathenish social state in which, all who labor, should be reduced to chattel-hood and capital own the laborer. This was the doctrine boldly advocated by the Richmond papers as early as 1854. They then said, that hitherto, they had advocated a false theory. They had always thought that slavery should be confined to *complexion*, but now they believed that it should be confined to *labor;* that all dependent upon labor ought to be *slaves*, whether *white* or *black*.

This condition to which the South would reduce all who labor is the closest aproximation to the brute of which a human being is capable. The statute says, the slave owes obedience without bounds; that he is in the hands of his master to all intents, purposes and constructions whatsoever; that he cannot own anything nor possess anything. Hence slaves can have no home, no family, no marriage, no parent, no child, no brother, no sister, indeed, nothing above a beast, from the dawn of life to its cloudy going down. He is forbidden to cultivate his intellect or to enlighten in any true sense his soul, for the law makes it a crime punishable with fines, stripes and imprisonment to instruct a slave in the alphabet or to teach him to read the Word of God.

This is the social, civil and religious condition to which the leaders of this rebellion would have reduced all who labor, had they been successful. My farmer friend, with your fifty, one hundred or two hundred acres, what do you think of the millennium promised by the leading spirits of this rebellion? Would you, because you "do your own drudgery," relish the marvelous felicity of being the slave of a southern nabob? And you, friend mechanic, who now dwell in your tasteful cottage, enjoying comfort, competence and prosperity, surrounded with an interesting family group, how would you be pleased with the wonderful exaltation to the dignified office of a body servant to Jefferson Davis, Henry Wise or John C. Breckenridge? How would you relish the sight of beholding your wife upon the auction block, under the gaze of coarse ruffian men, and your daughter bid off to become an inmate of a New Orleans brothel? And yet this is the very millennium

promised in this rebellion. It only required a *divided* North and a *successful* South to have ushered this heathen paradise with all its effulgence and glory. Let capital own labor, let the laborer become a chattel, and this sundering of families will be as fully and sorrowfully realized in the circumstances of the *white* slave as it ever has been with the black.

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead who never to himself hath said"—that the object of the rebellion is base, atheistic and heathenish?

> If such there be, go mark him well;
> For him no minstrels raptures swell;
> High though his titles, proud his name,
> Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;
> Despite those titles, power, and pelf,
> The wretch concentred all in *self*,
> Living shall forfeit fair renown,
> And, doubly dying, shall go down
> To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,
> Unwept, unhonored and unsung.

Over against this *Southern, sectional*, heathenish Idea stands in bold and sublime contrast the American Idea of man, society and government as revealed through the Word of God. This American Christian Idea represents every intelligent moral being as a child of God, as a member of the human brotherhood, as the co-equal heir with all men to all created good. It claims that the green earth, the free air and the golden sunlight, is by the bequest of the Creator the common inheritance of the entire race. This Idea regards civil government as one of the institutions of revealed religion, whose chief office is to *protect man* in his divinely conferred rights to life, to his liberty, to himself, to the cultivation of his faculties, to the avails of his labor, to worship according to the dictates of an enlightened conscience, and to encourage him to become as exalted and noble as his capacity will allow.

To plant, develop and nourish this most noble and divine Idea, God called out some of the purest, wisest and most intelligent Christians from the kingdoms of the old world and transplanted them in the virgin soil of the new. The atmosphere,

the soil and the surroundings were congenial, and the seed though small at first, even as the mustard seed, took root and sprang up and has become a magnificent tree, and is destined to become a shelter to the wrong and crushed from all the earth. Some of its fruits are already seen in the general intelligence of the people, in their social refinements, in their good order and law-abiding habits, and in their material wealth, enterprise and comforts, and in their Christian benevolence manifested in their literary and charitable institutions; indeed, in all that exalts, dignifies and blesses humanity, the like of which can nowhere be found on earth to the extent they are enjoyed in the Eastern, Middle and Western States.

Fellow citizens, I need not tell you that this American Christian Idea is directly the opposite of that Southern, heathen Idea. All can see without an effort that their respective elements are naturally antagonistic, and that they develop characters, states of society and forms of government that must of necessity be ever in external conflict. As well attempt to obliterate the line of demarkation between midnight and noonday, as well attempt to unite the congenial wedlock immortality and death, as to attempt a practical harmony between two systems, the one degrading man so far as possible to a beast, robbing him of all manly dignity and extorting all manly aspirings, while the other exalts manhood, and inbreaths the divine nature, and raises him to a plane but a little lower than the angels. The one is from heaven, and, therefore, attracts all toward the divine; the other is from the infernal regions and of necessity carries all downward. The Prince of darkness is the author and foster-father of the principles and the enterprise on the one side, while Jesus is the author, teacher and leader on the other. The effort of the powers on the one side, is to transform man into an incarnate demon and the earth into a literal hell; on the other, to raise man to the highest possible degree of holiness and to re-clothe the earth with Eden purity and peace.

It is the "irrepressible conflict" between these great Ideas that has caused all the upheavals in nations, governments and churches since time began. As the one has gained the

ascendency the race has sunken into heathenism, governments have become despotic, and the laborer has been reduced to chattel-hood. As the other has gained influence man has been enobled, governments have become just, labor has been honored, while purity and happiness have been multiplied and extended.

There was a period when Judas was the *visible* head and incarnation of this great Idea on one side, while Jesus represented it on the other. Then there came a time when Luther was the representative of the one Idea and the Pope of Rome the other. A few centuries roll by and Washington becomes the exponent of the Idea on the one side, and the English crown on the other. But in our day, Abraham Lincoln became the *incarnation* and visible representative of the great Christian Idea at Washington, while the Heathenish Idea was represented by Jefferson Davis at Richmond. But when the base purposes of Davis were circumvented by the farreaching sagacity of Grant, and when his power was crushed beneath the tread of our invincible army of the Potomac, and when this representative of the devil was compelled to flee to save his neck from a well-earned halter, the Prince of darkness, in his mad desperation to save the waning cause of heathenism on this continent, raised up and especially inspired John Wilkes Booth with plenary power to perform the last grand master-piece of hell in the murder of Abraham Lincoln. That he was a fitting successor of Davis, that he well represented the spirit of his infernal master in this terrible conflict, and was an incarnation of the *ultimate* purpose of the rebellion is palpable upon the face of his horrid crime. The only conceivable reason, why Lincoln had become the object of Southern hate was, he had become the living embodiment and the visible representative of the great American and Christian Idea, in this "irrepressible conflict" between Christ and Satan, between Christian justice and heathenism, for the civil control of the United States. When the enemy of all good had been fairly overwhelmed with defeat in the open field, true to his ancient character, he enters into a human reptile, and in the most stealthy serpentine way murdered the noble representative of *impartial* Christian liber-

ty; which liberty it was the intent of the rebellion to crush out completely.

My hearers, if I am correct in the view presented, then we have the cause of this bloody strife.

It is not the result of abolition preaching, but is the outgrowth of the conflict of principles. It comes from the fact that Christ is breaking up the strongholds of Satan, in order to raise the nation to a higher Christian plan.

A similar and mighty conflict is in process of preparation in Italy. The throne of the Roman usurper is trembling, and the day is being hastened, when that anti-christ shall cease to pervert God's truth, and loose his influence over the masses now held in spiritual bondage; when his sceptre shall depart and fall broken to the earth under the march of Omnipotent truth. The time is not far when the seven-hilled city shall be illumined by the light of an Apostolic faith, and blessed with the light of an Apostolic church, whose influence shall be a living rebuke to all forms of heresy, error, and despotism, and when the halls of the Vatican shall echo with the notes of a pure gospel.

A bloodless conflict has been successfully prosecuted in Russia in breaking up that unchristian semi-slave system of serfdom, and also in the introduction of a constitutional form of government.

The conflict in this nation, which has for four years rocked its deep foundations, sending to untimely graves near a half-million of its sons, and wasting a thousand millions of treasury, has resulted from the same cause, and tends toward the same end, viz: a practical realization in civil relations of the Christian idea of the brotherhood of man. It ought to have been bloodless here as in Russia; but the heathenism of slavery had so thoroughly demoralized us, that we had not virtue enough to raise us to the sublime attitude of right doing, unless compelled by stern military necessity. How lamentable, that learned men, and even bishops and clergymen, should bring forth Bible defences of a system that outrages every precept of the decalogue, and trampled under unhallowed feet the most sacred institution of Christianity. How shameful to sustain a system which reduces to brutehood a race in the most

Christian portion of the earth, when at the same time, the same race in another land, have a well administered Republican form of government with presidents, senators, judges, lawyers, bishops, deacons, churches, and colleges with learned professors who are of unmixed native blood. But the prayers of these outraged ones had ascended to heaven, and the counsels of Eternal Equity had sent forth the degree to blot this relic of heathenism from the American Continent. Neither Jefferson Davis nor Abraham Lincoln were the originators of this strife; but having by their own election become the incarnation of these antagonistic ideas, were by force of circumstances, or by Providence, thrown out prominently upon the surface of the conflict. God in Christ is the author and responsible cause of this conflict. It is the result of his Eternal purpose, formed in the fathomless counsels of wisdom and mercy to restore the race to the dominion of justice, purity, and benevolence. This conquering Gospel will continue to move onward with constantly accumulating majesty and power, till all that is opposed to the law of love shall be destroyed, and the earth be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters fill the channels of the mighty deep. No created power can prevent this glorious consummation. Ah! when you can by laying your hand upon the mouth of the volcano smother the belching fires; when with a word, you can command into obedience the sea, so that under the fury of the tempest it cease to lash the serf-eaten shore, when you can bind in the tops of the trees, the winds that rock them in summer and that sigh dirges through their leafless branches in winter, when you can compel the glowing sun to halt in his journey in the gilded West, and the blushing moon in the silvery East, when in short you shall exterminate every copy of the Bible, and banish the Holy Ghost from the hearts of men, and obliterate the line of demarkation between right and wrong, *then*, and not till then, can any finite power cause peace on earth. This conflict will, therefore, continue to rage among human institutions, till governments and churches, and all forms of human society, shall be founded in justice, and in practice, shall recognize the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

We see, also, where is to be found our only true and safe position; and what especially the leading work of ministers.

All institutions not based upon the law of Love, and that do not practically recognize the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, whether of governments, churches, or other associations, will be swept away when the Gospel shall fully triumph, if not during the progress of the mighty conflict.

It is, therefore, evidently the duty of the Christian minister, to expound clearly this eternal law of justice, righteousness and truth, in its applications to civil governments, churches, and to all forms of human associations, maxims, and customs, that men may see, that the curse of God rests upon any association that does not recognize, respect, and protect all men in their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Minters should make men see and feel, that they cannot be Christians in one relation and at the same time sinners in another; that they cannot be the servants of *Christ* in church *relations*, and of the devil in *political* relations. That man only, is, or can be an intelligent Christian, whose acts, positions, and purposes, are based upon, and controlled by the law of Love.

Shame on that minister, who with pious, pharisaical cant, refuses to apply God's law to national sins which like slavery crushes out the manhood of four millions bearing God's image, because some atheistical demagogue would charge him with "preaching politics." Such ministers belong to the school of the "Priest and Levite," who seeing a brother mangled and robbed, "pass by on the other side." God says, "the nation that will not serve him shall perish, yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted." "He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." Paul was a true minister, and, therefore, pure from the blood of all men, because he *shunned* not to *declare all* the counsel of God. Every man in the light of eternal truth, can see where he is, and what position he occupies in this conflict. If he preach, pray and act in all relations, with a direct purpose to bring *all* where they can enjoy the blessings of a Christian manhood, such a manhood as he desires for himself, then, he is co-operating with Christ; if not, he is against Christ; and has yet to learn the *alphabet* of Christian discipleship.

And, finally, we see the utter folly of any man, or of any association of men, in any attempt to carry any enterprise, not in keeping with the law and purposes of God.

History is full of illustrations upon this point.

Haman thought to wreak the vengeance of his envy upon Mordecai, but how signal his defeat and how complete his ruin.

The enemies of Christ, expected to banish the influence of his teachings from the earth by his crucifixion; but in this they fulfilled prophesy, and established his claims to the Messiahship; while his resurrection whelmed them in confusion, and rendered the triumph of his doctrines complete.

The tyrants of the old world thought to crush out civil and religious liberty by persecution; but God just at the right time brought to light the new world, opened a pathway through the sea for his faithful ones, and has made the rock-bound valleys of New England,—the cradle of the most enlarged Christian liberty—the hated foe and dread of tyrants.

A few years since, the slaveholders being annoyed by the presence of the free people of color, conceived the very wise and prudent project of colonizing them on the Coast of Liberia. The result is, that a vigorous Republic has sprung up, and has been recognized by all the great powers of the earth; and has become a living refutation of the falsehood, that the African is incapable of self-government, of self-support and of a dignified Christian manhood.

The leading spirits of the South being more in love with a despotism, than our Christian style of government, resolved to break up our confederacy, and to introduce a civil state in which every laborer should be eternally a slave. Their first step was to throw a fire-brand into the Charleston Convention, which they intended should result in the election of Lincoln. This election they seized upon, under the plea of sectionalism, as a pretext for secession. The war burst upon us and has raged with desolating fury. The result is, their land is ~~desolated~~ as if swept by the fiery sirocco; their country filled with the dead and populated with widows and orphans; their government is completely bankrupt; their slaves have become free and have been arrayed in the field against them; and were the

first to take possession of Charleston and Richmond, and will, doubtless, guard these rebel leaders in their march to the very gallows, where these same leaders a few years since, held infernal carnival over the execution of the crazed John Brown.

How true that God causeth the wrath of man to praise him, by furthering his purposes of justice, mercy and truth!

We, at the North, have been chastized and humbled. The balance in this conflict, has been held by an unseen hand in an apparent equipoise, till the North was educated up to the point of obedience to let the oppressed go free, when God clothed them with the strength of a giant, and enabled them to throw their antagonist with crushing force; paralyzing his energies beyond the power to rally, and rendering through the loyal North, the triumph of Christian liberty complete.

My hearers, the recoil of this last dastardly, desperate act of the slave-power in murdering our noble, lenient and loved Chief Magistrate, will be overwhelming; it will result in its *total annihilation*. It developes distinctly and unmistakably the dark spirit and purpose that instigated the rebellion, that starved our brothers in loathsome prisons, that mangled their dead bodies; that sported with their pains in the agonies of death; that fired our cities; and that murdered unoffending citizens, because loyal to the flag of their fathers. All now see that the *spirit* of the rebellion is to rule or ruin, to *subdue* or murder whatever opposes slavery. The *loyal* people, to day, forget party lines and stand as mourners at the bier of *their* murdered Chief. From this day, there will be but one sentiment respecting the inherent heathenisms of the slave system. All will see that any apology for it will be to justify the rebellion; the murder of the half-million slain in battle; and the assassin of Lincoln; for slavery has done it all; had there been no slavery, these things would not have occurred. Henceforth, unconditional surrender will be the only terms thought of in any mind for the deluded masses of the South, while the vengeance of the law will be demanded upon the heads of their treasonable leaders. Who knows but God permitted the removal of the lenient Lincoln, that the chair of state might be filled by the sterner Johnson, and that these heaven daring

crimes might not be passed over without marked example. Johnson is a man from the South, he knows these leaders, the iron has entered his soul; he has suffered in person, heart and estate; and his little finger will be heavier than Lincoln's whole hand.

We sometimes feel while reading respecting the cannibalisms of the South, to adopt the prayers of the Old Testament Saints, and ask that these crimes may render their memories a hissing and a bye-word through all time, and that the fires of hell may prey upon them throughout eternity. But it is not Christian to take counsel from our grieved, injured, and indignant passions. Let us rather study the prayer of the murdered and dying Redeemer. Let us aspire to that moral dignity of soul that ennobled Lincoln, and rendered him the greatest and most marked man of the aged and that immortalized him through all time. He triumphantly led us through the most perilous scenes, it will be safe to follow in his illustrious footsteps. Like him, let us ask Divine guidance; and like him be trustful, firm, obedient, and inflexible in our adhesion to justice. God will vindicate his own cause, and will overwhelm the enemies of truth, and deliver his own children.

The name of Lincoln, though he was of humble birth, will go down to posterity among the most illustrious and honored. His noble deeds will class him with our beloved Washington. Both were representative men in the battles of Christian freedom.

He has a monument more enduring than brass in the hearts of an appreciative people. He needs no marble to perpetuate his fame. He will live in history enrolled with the martyrs of liberty. The common people from whom he sprang, and for whom he labored, and with whom he was identified, and who placed him in power, together with the emancipated African whose manhood he has restored, will guard his name with sleepless vigilance, and will point their posterity to his grave as the shrine of American freedom. May he be the last, though the most renowned of that army of fallen victims, to consummate the work of expiration for the nation's guilt.

In the midst of our patriotic, and chastened grief, let us not

fail to manifest due gratitude to that benign Providence, who gave him, and who has protected him so long surrounded by assassins thirsting for his life. Let us thank God also for noble generals, for brave armies, for triumphant victories, for national repentance, and for a speedy, just and lasting peace.

We are a century in advance to-day as a *nation*, in moral progress, in Christian civilization, and in all that enhances human nobleness and human happiness, to what we were four years since. We are now enjoying the culmination of all civil, social, scientific, and religious progress since time began. The blood of Lincoln, together with the unburied thousands whose bones are bleaching on the battle-field, or who moulder in unknown graves, will enrich the soil in which has been planted the tree of Christian liberty. Its trunk will henceforth rapidly expand, its branches extend, its foliage gather freshness, and its top will peer beyond the clouds, till it shall stand forth in magnificent proportions, casting a shadow over the earth, and affording a shelter under which the crushed of all nations may take refuge; rendering our loved country the home of freedom and asylum for the oppressed, where humanity shall be regarded the most sacred thing on earth; and where all shall enjoy all the rights of a dignified manhood, with none to molest or make afraid. Thus cleansed, and purified, and with statutes in keeping with God's law, and Christianly administered, our government may continue to flourish till the millennial morn shall burst upon a regenerated earth with all its magnificence and ineffable glory, and when a disenthralled race shall break forth in joyful acclaim: "Alleluah, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

God hath a noble destiny for thee, our native land,
The champion of the cause of right for ever she shall stand.
Far in the distant future's light America I see,
Clad in the shining vestments bright of sacred liberty;
Bearing aloft the glorious flag, each star undimmed as yet,
By foul rebellion's traitor hand, whose blood her sword has wet.
We stand within the dawning light that breaks above her head
And gilds with glory ever bright our *martyred Chieftain's* bed.
Then let a swelling shout go up and spread from sea to sea
Thank God, our home, America, our native land is free.

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